



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

July 19, 2004

Theresa Svancara
Project Environmental Coordinator
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
6860 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7999

RE: Haines Highway Erosion Control Phase I

Dear Ms. Svancara:

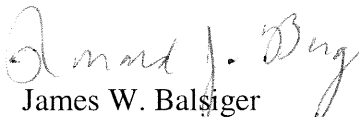
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment for the stabilizing riprap along the Haines Highway – Klehini River embankment between Mileposts 35 and 37 to prevent erosion damage to the highway.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect EFH. NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. The Klehini River provides spawning, rearing and migrating habitat for Chinook, coho and chum salmon. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has determined that the proposed action is likely to have short-term impacts to EFH. NMFS concurs with this determination and offers the following Conservation Recommendation in accordance with Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act:

In-water work should be limited to the windows from November 1 to April 15 to protect in-migrating salmon adults and June 15 to July 15, to protect out-migrating salmon smolts.

If you have any further questions, please contact Katharine Miller at 907-586-7643.

Sincerely,


James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Applicant
EPA Juneau, Chris Meade
ADF&G, Janet Schempf
ADEC, AADGC, ADNR, USFWS, Juneau

